

the chronicle

Fried & groom

Couple looking for a long and happy relation-ship

Page 4



Right royal do

Group gets together and marks Queen's accession

Page 6



Diva Jordanne

Teenager is top Brit in wheelchair tennis

Page 40



Town one of worst on empty shops list

DUDLEY high street is one of the worst in the country when it comes to empty shops, new figures claim.

The number of units lying vacant has got worse in the last year, with Dudley and West Bromwich the two worst in England for medium-sized towns with 29 per cent and 28 per cent of shops empty respectively.

Wolverhampton and Walsall are fifth and seventh in the top 10 large towns and cities with 27.3 per cent and 26.9 per cent of shops vacant.

The average for the West Midlands is 16 per cent according to the Local Data Company. High streets in Staffordshire are faring better.

But the Black Country occupies four out of five of the worst performing centres in the West Midlands, with Stoke-on-Trent at number five.

The figures released today by LDC come as the Government is trying to revive the high street with the help of shopping guru Mary Portas.

Out of town shopping centres are also contributing to the decline.

Walsall has around 100 unoccupied shops in the town centre. River Island is moving to Crown Wharf Retail Park. In Wolverhampton last summer fashion retailer TK Maxx moved out of the city centre.

Councillor's resignation

A TORY councillor who admitted an assault charge after throwing a pudding bowl at his wife's head has resigned from Dudley Council.

Paul Woodall has written to formally quit with immediate effect.

He represented Kingswinford North and Wall Heath. Council leader Les Jones said: "He feels he needs some time without the public interest to sort out his family issues."

• Attack - page 4

SPEED CAMERAS TRAP 'IS UNFAIR'

by Charlotte Cross

A leading motorists' group has criticised roadworks along the M5 past Halesowen as "equivalent to entrapment" by not warning motorway drivers of a sudden drop in the speed limit.

Between junction three at Halesowen and just beyond junction 4a, which links to the M42, a 40mph restriction is enforced by a number of speed cameras – but no warning signs ahead of the drop have been put up. It comes after it emerged 1,341 fines have been issued to drivers breaking the 40mph limit imposed while the £9.32 million scheme to replace the central reservation is carried out. The figure equates to an average of 17 drivers a day being caught, raking in a total of £80,460 in fines in the 79 days since the project launched in November and the start of this month.

Association of British Drivers spokesman Brian MacDowell called on the Highways Agency to review the signage leading up to the works, saying not to do so was "equivalent to entrapment".

It's unacceptable not to give ample and sufficient warning to drivers so they can be well prepared for the restriction," he said.

"It's not particularly in the interests of road safety if drivers are getting into restricted zones and then applying their brakes suddenly when they realise the limit is now lower."

He added he would query whether the limit needed to be as low as 40mph, and said he felt the work should be carried out 24/7 instead of overnight.

Lighting

"Work should be carried out throughout the day, especially if the lower limit is enforced 24/7 – to make sure it gets done as soon as possible," he said. The cameras will be taken down when the 20-week project to replace the central reservation barrier and lighting comes to an end on March 31.

Highways Agency project sponsor Wayne Norris said all income generated by the camera would go straight to the Treasury.

"Safety cameras are used to help minimise the risk faced by road workers – who are often working in difficult conditions next to live traffic – and for drivers passing through the works area," he said.

"While we remove and replace the central reservation barrier there is open excavation and no safety barrier separating traffic travelling in opposite directions.

"To safely apply a higher speed limit we would need to install a barrier around the site, which would be costly."

Replacement lighting bill will be £5m

MORE than £5million will be spent on replacing thousands of street lights across Dudley with new energy-saving ones.

It follows a trial on the Priory estate which saw 100 outdated lamps replaced with modern white lights.

Council bosses now plan to roll them out around the borough and around 27,000 lights will be converted or replaced. The council estimates the lamps, which use around 50 per cent less energy, would save the authority £150,000 a year. Maintenance costs for the lamps are also much lower.

Lighting levels can be cut using a dimming device when there is less traffic while still maintaining safe visibility for motorists and pedestrians.

The total cost of the project is £5,054,000 and some of the cash will be spent on a new computer system which will also give council workers greater control of the lights and help reduce maintenance work.

A report by chief executive John Polychronakis said: "The replacement equipment would also carry a dimming module to allow the luminaire to be dimmed if and as required. In total around 27,800 units, 87 per cent of the borough total, would be converted or replaced." The council is also putting aside £400,000 to replace dangerous or outdated lampposts in 2012/13.

Children drum up some fun



Arts teacher Jay Gardiner, centre, with Laiba Anwar, Ethan McDonough, Victoria Andrews and Adeel Hussain, all aged eight, at Olive Hill primary

PUPILS were banging the drum at a Halesowen school when they made their own musical instruments during a special workshop.

Youngsters at Olive Hill Primary School made African-style drums in a session led by arts teacher Jay Gardiner. The Year 4 children used the event to improve their writing

skills, as part of the project involved them drafting instructions on how to make the instruments.

They made the drums using plastic tubs, tape and string before decorating them with paint. Assistant headteacher Laura Haswell said: "I think the teachers are now looking forward to a nice quiet week."

Plea for help with Edwards research

AS FAMILY and friends of the Busby Babes marked the 54th anniversary of the Munich air crash, a distant relative of Dudley's Duncan Edwards is appealing for information for a study on the footballer.

Gayle Rogers, aged 43, has been awarded a PhD scholarship to study the life of Edwards.

Her mother was friends with the footballer before he moved to Manchester United aged 16, while her great-grandfather and Edwards' father were cousins.

One of Miss Rogers' former university lecturers suggested the idea for the study – and the University of Central Lancashire agreed to provide the funds along with the International Football Institute.

As part of her research Gayle is looking for people to share their memories of Edwards – and in particular stories of visiting his grave in Dudley Cemetery. She said: "I understand a member of Duncan's family tends the grave and that person is key to this area of research – I hope that they will read this and contact me."

United's plane crashed on take-off at Munich on February 6, 1958, with the Busby Babes on board.

Miss Rogers can be contacted by email on madein-dudley@hotmail.com.

Free parking facing cuts

FREE parking could be scrapped at some sites around Dudley and on-street parking meters installed to boost council coffers.

Dudley Council is considering introducing charges at some of its small surface level car parks, which are free, to raise money as it tries to shave millions off the budget. Councillor Patrick Harley said while charges could be introduced at some sites, more free parking could be introduced.

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£100,000 manhole theft bill

METAL thieves stealing manhole and gully covers have cost taxpayers in Worcestershire more than £100,000 in the past 12 months, new figures claim.

The soaring value of metal has led to around 650 covers being stolen around the county including more than 80 in Wyre Forest since the start of 2011.

Dozens of road signs have also been taken from around Worcestershire.

They have now been replaced by fibreglass ones to prevent further thefts. Special labels have also been put on them to let thieves know they have no scrap value.

Residents are being encouraged to watch for people wearing high visibility clothing turning up in vans and posing as maintenance workers, as they may be the culprits. Highways teams have been replacing the stolen covers with hinged gulleys which are more difficult to remove.

The bill has been revealed as Worcestershire County Council leaders spoke out in support of Government plans to make buying scrap metal for cash illegal and to increase fines for those breaking the law. Police also claim around 320 supermarket trolleys had been stolen.

It's all Greek to students

CATERING students at Halesowen College will be brushing away the winter blues when they host two Greek nights.

They will be and cooking a menu of Greek treats on February 29 and March 1.

Main meals will include moussaka, baked prawns and rocket, leek and caper pie served with roast mediterranean vegetables, baked potatoes and chickpea and spinach.

Customers need to arrive in time for a pre-dinner aperitif at 6.45pm, with dinner being served at 7pm. Call 0121 6027851.

Plan approved

PLANS for a car dismantling and recycling yard in Brierley Hill have been approved. Councillors from Dudley's planning committee had visited the site of the Moor Street Industrial Estate before backing the plans last week. Kevin Priest applied for a change of use for the reclaiming yard.

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Readers rush to sign up for new E&S app



Reader Jamie Skelding is well 'appy

HUNDREDS of iPhone and iPad users have rushed to download the Express & Star's new digital newspaper app.

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Once the free Express & Star app is downloaded from iTunes to an iPad or iPhone, users can flick through the pages of the most recent electronic edition.

Shortly after each newspaper is published, users get a pixel-perfect replica of the newspaper to view the latest news, sport and opinion, even when offline.

Warehouse worker Jamie Skelding,

aged 31, has subscribed to get all the latest news via the app on his iPhone.

The father of two, of Rosehill, Willenhall, said: "I've been reading the Express & Star for as long as I can remember so it is great to get it with the app."

"I would fully recommend it. I'd give it 10 out of 10. It is like having the paper in your hand, so I wouldn't be without it now."

"You get all the information you want with every single page, including the TV."

Mr Skelding, who works at AF Blakemore and Sons, in Willenhall, has signed up for a monthly subscription.

"I love to read all the sport so it is ideal

to keep up with the Wolves latest," he said.

Van driver Paul Powers, 54, of Marl Road, Netherton, subscribed to the app via the iPad he was given for Christmas.

"It is very good value and I have been very impressed. You can go on holiday and still get to read the paper via your iPad."

"I emailed an article to my brother which I knew he would like."

Subscribing via the iPad app costs £1.49 per week or £3.99 per month. The first week of access to downloads is free, giving you access to news, sport and opinion before committing. To find out more, go to www.expressandstar.com/app

NEWS

in brief

Have a ball with Ceroc dancing

A MAD Hatter's spring ball has been organised to raise money for a Midland hospice.

Fundraisers will be able to enjoy Ceroc dancing – a form of modern jive – at the event on March 10.

All the proceeds will go to St Richard's Hospice in Worcester.

The ball will take place at the Holiday Inn in Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove, and will offer dancing for enthusiasts and beginners. Tickets are £20 each and include a hot pork buffet and disco.

Students pamper lucky pensioners

STUDENTS at Halesowen College joined a pensioners' charity to offer pampering sessions.

They worked with Age UK Dudley to offer treatments such as head massages and manicures.

Hair and beauty students carried out the pampering sessions while putting their customer service relationship skills to the test. All the students were assessed while working. Hair and beauty technician Cheryl Lee said: "The sessions have been really successful."

Hearty route to helping charity

PEOPLE looking to improve their fitness can raise cash for a good cause at the same time at an event in the Wyre Forest.

The British Heart Foundation is holding its Wyre Forest Jog on March 11 offering 5km and 10km routes.

It will be held from the Wyre Forest Visitors Centre, in Callow Hill, Bewdley, from 11am. Call 0800 169 3672 for details.

Give views on theatre plans

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on suggested improvements to a theatre at Halesowen Library.

Proposals include reducing the size of the stage at Shenstone Theatre to provide more space for visitors and people with physical disabilities. For more information call 01384 812983.

Business invite

FIRMS have been invited to networking event in Kidderminster organised by the Federation of Small Businesses at Business Skills, Arkroyd House, Hoo Road, on February 29.

Not spending a penny leads to shops losing the pounds

More than 300 residents and businesses have signed a petition calling for public toilets in a Midland village to be reopened amid claims the move has caused a drop in trade.

by Lee Watton

their business. They say the toilets desperately need to be reinstated.

Labour councillor for Gornal, Councillor Stuart Taylor said it was vital the authority looked at the situation again.

He said: "This issue is continually being raised with me by the residents of Gornal.

Reduction

"The council need to look again at this and reopen the toilets.

Residents and shopkeepers have complained the closure of the toilets has led to a reduction in the amount of people, especially elderly people, choosing to shop in the village," added councillor Stuart.

"This coupled with the difficult economic times is the last thing traders in the village need."

The council has previously said the block had major maintenance issues which would have cost thousands of pounds to put right.

Scheme to boost orchards

PEAR, apple and plum trees are on offer to residents in Worcestershire as part of a bid to protect the county's dwindling orchards. It is thought around 85 per cent of Worcestershire's orchards have been lost over the last 50 years.

To tackle the problem Worcestershire County Council's Countryside Service team manages a fruit trees scheme that offers residents the chance to buy apple, pear and plum trees. Log on to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside for details.



Susan Bird, of Netherton, with her work during an exhibition at the art centre

Artists put their work on display

ARTISTS from across the region descended on the Black Country for a new fair and exhibition which saw them put their works on display.

A range of contemporary art was showcased during the exhibition held at Netherton Art Centre at the weekend.

The Evolving Arts joined staff from the centre, in Northfield Road, for the art fair, which has been created specifically to give up-and-coming artists the opportunity and place to display their work.

Its main hall was crammed full of works which included paintings, photographs, sculptures, glass creations, ceramics and textiles.

Families were able to get involved in the numerous workshops which had been organised as part of the event.

Dudley Performing Arts' students also got in on the act where they were able to play a variety of music to entertain visitors to the exhibition and fair.

Dudley Council children's services chief, Councillor Liz Walker, said: "There are many talented artists in Dudley borough and this is a great opportunity for some of them to display their work."

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SOME viewers complained about actors "mumbling" their lines in *Birdsong* (BBC1). This raises a fascinating point about diction on telly. How come no-one ever mumbles in the ads?

BUS drivers in Brighton & Hove have been ordered not to call female passengers "babe". They have also been warned that terms such as "love" or "darling" might cause offence.

This follows an isolated complaint from one lady/woman/female (delete if inappropriate) passenger who said the word "babe" was demeaning. Following this, a reader has been on the phone bemoaning my ear about his status as an oppressed minority group (he is working class) and threatening terrible consequences if any bus driver dares to call him "sir". "I am not a sir," he rages. "I have never been knighted, nor expect to be knighted."

Dilemma. Like so many etiquette problems of our time, the issue of how to address each other is neither ageist nor sexist. It is classist.

DOWNTON Abbey has become an unexpected hit on the US public-service channel PBS.

Bless 'em. The Yanks probably think it's a documentary. Mind you, that Great British national treasure, historian Simon Schama, is trying to put them straight. He has described *Downton* as "a steaming, silvered tureen of snobbery".

Oh, come on, Schama. Get off the fence.

AN AMERICAN pundit tried to explain the *Downton* appeal to Americans thus: "The class system is something completely alien to us." Of course it is, dear boy. You had slavery instead.

OUR changing language. The Met Office expect a "snow event". Or, as we used to call it, snow.

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A TORY councillor who admitted assaulting his wife after causing a gash to her head by throwing a pudding bowl at her during a row, has resigned from Dudley Council.

Paul Woodall has written to council chief executive John Polychronakis formally resigning with immediate effect. He announced his decision to council leader, Councillor Les Jones, after news of his court appearance sparked calls for him to step down.

Woodall, elected two years ago as ward member for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, pleaded guilty to assault at Dudley Magistrates Court last Thursday.

His wife Joanne was left with a one-inch cut on her forehead and blood pouring down her face following an altercation.

The 45-year-old, of High Street, Wall Heath, will be sentenced on February 23.

Councillor Jones said: "He has formally resigned as ward member for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath.

"I think he has made the right decision for himself, his family and the electorate.

Magistrates heard the couple, who have been married for two years, were having lunch on January 22 when an argument began.

He became abusive and then Mrs Woodall picked up her bowl as if to throw it at him. But he stopped. Mrs Sukhi Rai, prosecuting, said Woodall had thrown his dish at her and it hit her.

COUNCIL tax rates are set to be frozen for residents in Dudley next year as bosses revealed they were willing to accept Government help.

Proposals to accept a one-off £2.8million Government grant will allow the authority to freeze council tax for 12 months.

Rates for properties in the borough will remain the same, with band D homes paying £1,272.67 next year.

The 2012/13 budget report will go before the council's cabinet this week and full council on March 5 before it can be ratified.

FORGET posh nosh – when it came to their wedding breakfast nothing could be finer than fish and chips for Black Country couple Kayleigh and Matthew Prior.

The newly-weds, of Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford, booked their entire 39-strong wedding party into their favourite chippie in Pensnett, where they sat down for a hearty feast, ordering wine or beer from the restaurant but taking in their own champagne.

Here's to a happy relation-chip



Matthew Prior, aged 39, and bride Kayleigh, 24, from Kingswinford, enjoy their fish and chip wedding breakfast in Pensnett. Picture - www.kingsleystudios.co.uk

Meanwhile customers in less fancy attire toasted them from other nearby tables.

The couple had their ceremony at The Priory register office in Dudley before enjoying the meal at Goodies fish and chip shop, in High Street, Pensnett. "We love fish and chips and go to Goodies all the time," said Kayleigh, 24. "The whole wedding party adored our feast and the waitresses at Goodies were really excited about it."

Traders backing revised scheme

TRADERS have backed a revised layout for a £6 million revamp of Dudley's historic market place – as a 2,800-name petition against the development was presented to council chiefs.

The basic layout of the new market has been altered to include extra pedestrian walkways and more space for stalls after business owners opposed the plans.

Councillors at the Central Dudley Area Committee were told traders had approved the new proposals and that detailed designs would be drawn up in the coming weeks.

The petition had been collected before the council agreed to come up with new designs – but campaigners presented it to the meeting last week as planned.

They warned councillors they would continue to fight to get the kind of market place built that they feel is suitable.

Councillor Malcolm Davis, who has backed the campaign, told the committee: "If it wasn't for this petition then the original plans would have been railroaded through."

Doddy's tickets

TICKETS are still available to see veteran comedian Ken Dodd perform in Dudley in March.

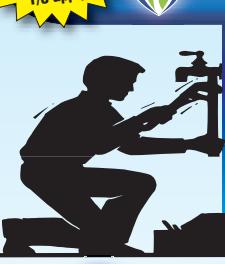
The 84-year-old funnyman will be bringing his Happiness show to Dudley Concert Hall on March 27pm. To book call the box office on 01384 812812.

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Bus route reinstated as a trial

A DIRECT bus service ferrying passengers between a Black Country estate and the Merry Hill shopping centre is to be reinstated on a trial basis following an outcry from residents.

Residents on the Stickley estate, in Gornal, were left furious after National Express changed the route of the 297 and 297A service so it terminated at Gornal Wood bus station.

People in the area, along with the Five Ways and Milking Bank protestted over the move.

They said that since the move they had been forced to walk to the bus terminal in Gornal Wood or catch another bus into Dudley to make the change there increasing their journey time.

At a meeting of North Dudley Area Committee, Councillor David Stanley announced that an agreement had been brokered for a direct link between the estate and Merry Hill to be restored within the next couple of months.

The service will begin on April 1 for a trial period.

Exercise time

SEATED exercise classes for the over-50s take place in Brierley Hill on Fridays. The sessions are run at Age UK Dudley's Merry Hill activities base.

They will be held Fridays between noon and 1pm. Call 01384 572365 or email merhyillactivitycentre@ageuk-dudley.org.uk

One bell of a restoration as church rings the changes

A BELL of a restoration job has broken out at a Black Country church. The years have taken their toll on the eight bells at Christ Church in Lye near Stourbridge so they have been taken for a major makeover.

by Andrew Turton

The bells have been lowered from their tower for the first time in more than 120 years to be restored.

Because of their age the bells were only rung occasionally, but thanks to a successful fundraising drive – which raised around £40,000 – restoration is now under way, and will allow the bells to ring out on a regular basis.

Specialists have removed the bells with each one carefully lowered using hand operated pulleys through two trapdoors to the ground.

"It is the first time they have ever been taken from the tower so it is special."

The Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust has given the project £15,000 with £5,000 coming from the Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

The remainder of the money came from donations.

Get free health checks

RESIDENTS in Worcestershire can get free health checks throughout this month. Health trainers from Worcestershire PCT will be hosting sessions in Stourport and Kidderminster. Health trainer co-ordinator Jayne McCullough said: "The health MoTs checks include, Body Mass Index, blood glucose plus information on a healthier lifestyle." Sessions will be held at Kidderminster Hospital on February 21 at 10am-3pm and at 5 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster on February 22, 23, 24 and 25. Call 01905 733673.



Andy Gray helps to lower the largest of the eight bells



Dave Struckett and Paul Marshall lower one of the bells



Dave Struckett with the bells that are to be restored

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NEWS

in brief

Conversion bid on shop refused

PLANS to convert a former shop in Halesowen into a restaurant have been refused amid fears it would lead to traffic chaos.

Kayum Ali had applied for change of use for the site in Long Lane.

But Dudley Council's planning committee heard residents living nearby had objected to the proposals and refused planning permission for the project. Councillors heard 11 letters of objection had been received from residents and business owners.

First stage for zoo work started

WORK has begun on the first stage of a revamp of Dudley Zoo – kick-starting a £10 million project to link it with two other tourist attractions.

A new office block at the zoo at the back of the old Gala Bingo is expected to be completed by April.

It will be the first finished stage of the development that will see a new visitor centre and main entrance along with a road linking it to the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Breakers yard is given approval

PLANS for a car dismantling and recycling yard in Brierley Hill have been approved.

Councillors from Dudley's planning committee had visited the site on the Moor Street Industrial Estate before backing the plans recently. Kevin Priest applied for a change of use for the reclaiming yard.

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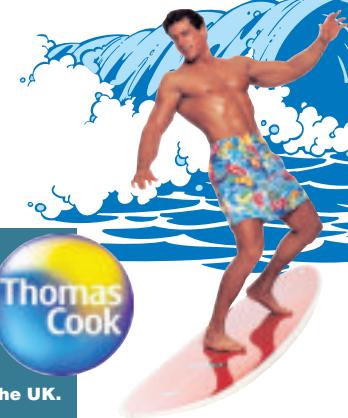


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Council raid strips pot plants and hall carpets

A COUNCIL raided a row of flats in the Black Country – and stripped the landings of carpets and pot plants in a health and safety drive.

People living in the nine blocks of low rise flats in South Road, Stourbridge – many of them elderly – are outraged and upset over the move.

They watched as the carpets and plants they had tended in the communal areas for years were piled up on the lawn outside to await collection.

Some of the plants disappeared quickly as passers-by took advantage of the windfall and carried them off to their own homes.

Worried

Dudley Council had warned some of the 36 council tenants and flat owners in a letter dated January 5, sent on behalf of the housing manager for Norton, to remove items such as furniture, carpets, curtains and plants within 14 days or face removal.

"It's ridiculous – health and safety gone berserk," said 81-year-old Beryl Haden, whose carpet she had fitted in the corridor outside her flat more than 20 years ago was among the victims of the council raid.

"They say the carpet could be a fire hazard – but there hasn't been a fire here.

Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "Items of furniture and personal belongings left in communal areas or on landings, which are a potential hazard and could cause an obstruction in the event of an emergency are being removed."

Charity wants volunteers

A CHARITY helping to find homes for cats in Stourbridge is looking for volunteers.

Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch will hold an information drop-in event on February 18 from 11am until 2pm for people to find out about the roles.

Branch co-ordinator Rob Hall said: "I'd like to encourage any local people who love cats and would like to help to pop in."

Right royal do for all



The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans and his consort, Councillor Sue Greenaway, with 102 year old Nell Cook, centre and Dorothy Clarke, right at Halesowen Over 50s Club's royal party.

MEMBERS of a Halesowen group marked The Queen's accession to the throne by welcoming a regal guest to their party.

The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, was invited to attend Halesowen Over 50s Club's special celebration last week.

The event, held at the Zion Christian Centre on Little Cornbow, was attended by 73 people, with entertainment coming from choir The Greenfield Singers.

A tea party, cake and lots of flag

waving finished off the afternoon.

Club spokeswoman Dorothy Clarke said: "Everyone enjoyed themselves and I've had wonderful reports about it."

"The mayor was brilliant and made everyone feel happy."

"We hadn't heard of anyone else celebrating the accession so it seemed like a nice idea."

Accession Day was officially on February 6, which was the day in 1952 that Princess Elizabeth became Queen.

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LETTERS

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Motorists being forced from our roads

WITH regards to Phil Tonks' letter, the Government have been trying to force the motorist off the road for the past 25 years.

They have done this through fuel hikes, road tax, insurance, MoTs, speed cameras, roadside checks and a host of other things making it almost impossible for anyone, especially OAPs such as myself to afford a car.

Perhaps being a pensioner, I'm one of the lucky ones. I have a free bus pass, but I also have had a heart attack and also suffer from a lung disease, which means I cannot walk the distances to and from some of the bus stops.

Support for appeal to keep pet cats

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Why bother with the dross on television?

FOR many years after starting married life, I managed to stay away from owning a television. It wasn't until a few years ago, when my wife was given a TV/video player as a retirement gift, I succumbed. Now, looking at the available programmes, even on Freeview, I wonder why I bothered.

Who wants to continually change channels to get away from cookery, home improvements, police, idiot comedy etc. Are the TV planners not really capable of looking at what the public want to watch and putting on decent programmes? We still laugh at the old Morecambe and Wise, Dad's Army and Only Fools and Horses programmes. If there is nothing better to watch, there must be lots of unrepeatable stuff from those programmes we could enjoy.

BBC Radio isn't much better. When our sons were still at home, they used to come home just before 10pm, say goodnight to their mom and I, then up to their bedrooms to listen to The Navy Lark. Now, my wife and I tend to read.

At least we can choose our books.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

No more advice on how to live lives

YET more official advice about our drinking habits has been released. Apparently it's best if we leave it a couple of days between drinking alcohol.

This is another addition to the endless advice and guidelines about what we eat and drink, how often we do it and what quantity.

This is not and must not be any of the government's business. The relentless march of the state into our private lives has not been slowed by a change of government.

We need politicians who are going to tell us which rules and guidelines they are going to repeal, rather than the current addiction to legislation.

So no more advice or guidelines about what we do in our private lives please.

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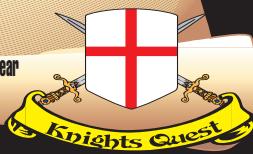
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£300,000 repair bill

AROUND £300,000 of repair work will be needed to bring a Dudley day centre up to standard after it was saved from the axe.

Woodside Day Centre, Holly Hall, was due to close. Dudley Council wanted to move the service to another site.

When more than 500 people signed a petition in protest at the move council chiefs relented and decided to keep it open.

It is used by residents, some of whom have mental health problems.

Local hostility criticised

A LEADING Wyre Forest councillor has slated local "hostility" to proposed gipsy and traveller sites during a public consultation - labelling it a "dark episode" in the district's history.

Wyre Forest Councillor Julian Phillips, said he feared the consultation had brought out "the worst" in some people. Another local councillor, Chris Nicholls, disagreed, saying he had not heard any "intolerance or negativity" towards the travelling community at any of the public meetings he attended.

But Councillor Phillips said: "I feel in some respects the consultation

period brought out the worst in our community in terms of the hostility of some towards gipsies and travellers, and to be fair, the distrust of some gipsies and travellers towards the wider community.

"Sadly this is a global problem that has existed for generations and not one that this council can solve. It has been a very dark episode in Wyre Forest history."

Intolerance

Council leader, Councillor John Campion said he had also met a "considerable amount of intolerance" expressed to him during the consultation.

A cabinet meeting recently agreed with a recommendation from an

overview and scrutiny committee to approve a further public consultation on proposals for gipsy and traveller pitches on land at three sites, all in Stourport - one opposite the Gatehouse, another in Sandy Lane and a third in Broad Road.

It also agreed with the overview and scrutiny committee's recommendation to drop proposed pitches at Clows Top, the former Yieldingtree Packing site in Hackman's Gate, near Hagley, Hoo-brook Industrial Estate, Kidderminster, and Wilden Lane, between Stourport and Kidderminster.

The cabinet also agreed to draw up a detailed policy for use in any future planning applications for travelling showpeople, gipsy and traveller sites in the district.

Beauty spot walkers are warned over car crime

WALKERS are being warned to be on their guard against thieves as police launch a crackdown on vehicle crime at a beauty spot near Stourbridge.

Patrols at car parks on the Clent Hills have been increased and police and community support officers are speaking to drivers and handing out notices telling thieves all valuables have been removed from cars.

Vehicle crime is a year-round problem at Clent Hills, with handbags, mobile phones, MP3 players, laptops, digital cameras and sat navs all being taken.

CSO Sue White, of the Hagley and Rural Local Policing Team, said: "Most of the thefts happen on the Walton Hill or

Uffmore Wood car parks, which are more isolated.

"The main Nimmings Wood car park is not so much of a problem, as there is a car park attendant.

"They usually take place at weekends, and we believe the offenders watch people place handbags and other valuables into their boots of their cars, and then strike after seeing them walk off."

"Although we patrol the car parks whenever we can, we cannot possibly cover all of the locations, so we really need to get the message across to people."

"Thefts from vehicles cause a considerable amount of distress."

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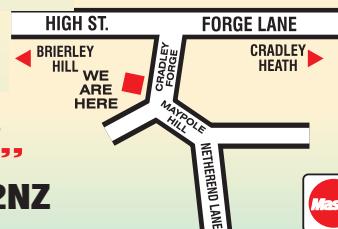
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M-way drains work will mean delays for drivers

Pupils playing politics



Pupils from Northfield Road Primary School debate in Dudley Council House

SCHOOL pupils from Dudley became local politicians for the day during a visit to the town's council house.

Youngsters from Northfield Road Primary School, Netherton, were shown around the main chamber at Dudley Council House before staging a political debate of their own. They were joined for the event by youngsters from Quarry Bank

Primary School to discuss the importance of walking to school. Pupils taking part in the debate were members of both schools' councils - which have representatives from each year.

Netherton councillors Quadar Zada and Tracy Wood also attended the event to chat with pupils about their work and answer questions on the role of Dudley Council.

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Trolley record attempt dashed

SHOPPERS queued up for the opening of a new 99p store in Dudley town centre as they watched a world record attempt.

Doctors surgery receptionist Karen Jones, aged 36, took part in the supermarket sweep-style challenge.

She was trying to beat the record of 265 items in 99 seconds but only managed to scoop 80 items ranging from sweets to cleaning products.

The challenge marked the opening of the 99p Stores branch in the former Spencers Market premises in High Street, which has created 35 jobs. More than 300 customers were welcomed during the first hour of trading.

Mrs Jones of Wood Road, Lower Gornal, said she had enjoyed taking part in the challenge. "The store is massive so I was only able to go down a few aisles in the time. I don't know how the woman was able to get 265 items - she must have about 10 arms to be able to pick up all of the stuff," she said.

Hussein Lalani, the chain's commercial director, said: "It's been a great opening."



Trolley dash winner Karen Jones from Lower Gornal with Graham Barnes, promoter for the store and shoppers

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Families lose battle over cars using 'rat run' road

Residents have lost their three-year battle to get crossings built on a "rat-run" used by motorists avoiding a busy junction in the Black Country.

Oakham Road in Dudley became clogged with traffic when work to remove the Burnt Tree Island started in 2009.

But since the new junction was opened last year drivers are still using the route and council bosses admit traffic has not reduced as much as they would have expected.

Householders had called for pedestrian crossings. They claimed their lives were being put at risk by motorists using the road as a "rat-run".

But last week a meeting of Dudley councillors was told that the road "did not meet criteria" for new crossings to be built there.

The authority's traffic manager Peter Vangeersdale told the Central Dudley Area Committee: "A number of locations along Oakham Road had been looked at for controlled crossing facilities in response to requests from residents."

"The idea is to break up the traffic flow along the road. But unfortunately none of the locations can be taken forward as they either do not meet the criteria or it is technically not feasible to install a crossing there."

But he said the road would be added to the list being considered for safety measures during the next financial year.

Higher

Mr Vangeersdale said traffic increased by a third during the Burnt Tree works but was still 15 per cent higher than before even though the scheme has now ended.

He added: "I can assure the local community that we will continue to work with them and listen to their concerns."

Resident John Ward, aged 54, said he feared someone would end up getting killed on the road as cars often break the 30mph speed limit.

He said: "Crossings seemed like the only option so I can't believe they have scrapped that idea."

"We've given up on anything being done now. It's a joke."

Start date hope for British Sugar site

WORK COULD start this summer on plans to turn Kidderminster's former British Sugar site into a thriving business park, creating hundreds of new jobs, thanks to an injection of Government cash.

The Wyre Forest area is among a string of districts set to benefit from a share of £15.4 million from the Growing Places Fund that is going to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Growing Places Fund is designed to boost economic growth by getting the required infrastructure built to enable the creation of new jobs and get stalled projects moving again.

Before Christmas developers St Francis Group revealed plans to revamp the disused site in Kidderminster, building more than 300 homes and a business park that could create 400 jobs on the 74-acre plot, the largest brownfield site in Wyre Forest. The land became disused after British Sugar shut down operations and sold it off in 2002. A final decision on which projects will receive funding has yet to be taken.

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Inside the racking room at Holden's brewery in Woodsetton, Denis Briscoe was stacking the beer ready for delivery to the pubs of the Black Country when this photograph was taken back in January, 1967



The end of the line at Holdens Brewery in January, 1967, as crates of beer are picked up on the forklift, ready to be loaded onto the lorries by Ike Hughes of Coseley, who had worked for the firm for 24 years



The late Edwin Holden who joined the brewery in 1965



Stan Stephens, of Dudley Camra, and Jonathan Holden with 40th Birthday Ale brewed to celebrate Jonathan's birthday

Raise a glass as brewery gets ready for expansion

FAMILY-RUN Holden's Brewery has seen a number of changes in the industry during its near 100-year history.

And with real ale enjoying a renaissance with drinkers moving away from modern lagers, the firm is looking stronger than ever.

One of just 33 family-owned independent breweries in Britain with 21 pubs across the Black Country, it has announced expansion plans that will see its Woodsetton site extended and its ale production increased from 50,000 pints a week to 75,000.

Steve Thompson, brewery liaison officer for The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), said: "Holden's is one of the most successful breweries in the area because it has responded to the changes in the industry."

The brewery came from small beginnings, when one man decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and become a shoemaker, but instead to follow the example of his

MEMORY LANE
by Adam Burling

father-in-law, Edwin Alfred Holden was born in 1875, the youngest of seven sons.

His father Daniel was a skilled shoemaker and after he left school, Edwin decided to join him and older brother Walter in the family business.

But he later married Lucy Round, whose father Benjamin owned the Trust in Providence, in Washington Street, Dudley.

It changed his career path and the young couple became tenants and ran a number of pubs including the Atkinson's house The Britannia Inn, Netherton.

When Lucy's father died in 1900, her mother kept the licence of the Britannia and in 1904 the couple moved to the Struggling Man Inn, Dudley. The couple and their son

Teddy later moved into The Park Inn, Woodsetton, a brewhouse.

They were there just six months when Edwin died in 1920. Lucy continued to operate the pub and Teddy was to follow in his mother and father's footsteps.

The ensuing decades saw the company's expansion and the establishment of Edwin Holden's Bottling Company.

Before his death in 1981, Teddy had acquired several pubs including The New Inn, Rose & Crown, The Trumpet and had extended the brewery.

His son, Edwin, joined him in 1965. Together they increased the estate.

His sons Jonathan and Edwin went on to increase the Holden's estate, which include the acclaimed Great Western in Wolverhampton and The Station, Codsall.

Jonathan, now a director, has been instrumental in the development of new products and hopes the expansion will represent "thousands of pounds investment".



Holden's Brewery in Woodsetton as it used to look



The Holden's Brewery site, George Street, Woodsetton, today but which is now to be expanded to cope with demand

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Cold War bunker has rare open day



Visitors enter the bunker through a series of three blast doors in the Drakelow Tunnels



Visitors view the new canteen area of the bunker which was used in the Cold War

THEY ARE a vast labyrinth of three-and-a-half miles of tunnels which had been a base for top secret war operations and Cold War strategists.

Visitors were given a rare glimpse of the Drakelow Tunnels, near Kidderminster, after they were opened for a one-off open day. Sixty people visited the passageways.

The 265,000sq ft network of tunnels and rooms had once been used by MPs, military officials and RAF chiefs.

But the tunnels, which lie underneath Kingsford Country Park between Wolverley and Kinver, had been empty since the 1990s when the Cold War finished.

Visitors were able to see huge kitchens which had been replaced as part of a £1 million modernisation plan in the 1980s.

Tables, worksurfaces and even a stainless steel hot water dispenser remain in good condition.

The building was saved in 1993 by the Drakelow Preservation Trust.

Activities lined up to keep youngsters busy

A PACKED programme of events has been planned to keep youngsters busy during half-term at a Black Country leisure centre.

The activities run from February 13 to 18 at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge. A roller disco takes place on February 13 from 1.30 to 3pm and 3 to 4.30pm. The disco costs £4. Skates can be hired for 50p.

Sports and games including football, street dance and team games are on offer for ages eight to 12. The activities run on February 13 and 15 from 9.30am to 11.30am and cost £3.60. On February 14, five to 15-year-olds can try out trampolining. Beginners can take part at 9am, 10am and 11am while advanced students can attend at noon and 1pm. Sessions cost £4.60. There are gymnastics lessons on February 15 at noon and 1pm, a gym and play session from 9.45 to 10.45am. Art and crafts workshops for five to 11 year olds will take place on February 14 and 15. Call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

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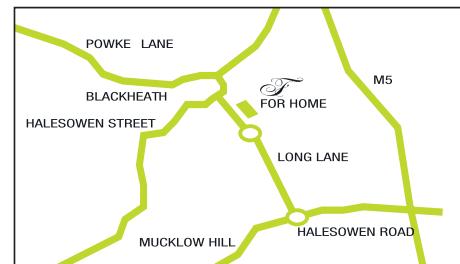
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Plans for 300 homes on two plots are submitted

DETAILS of a multi-million pound development of more than 300 homes in Dudley have been unveiled in a planning application lodged with council bosses.

The houses and apartments would be built on two plots of land next to Tansey Green Road and Oak Lane, Pensnett. Bosses have submitted full plans for the scheme, which would offer a range of housing from low-cost homes to five-bedroom detached properties, to Dudley Council.

Councillor Sue Greenaway, who represents Pensnett, has welcomed the development, saying it will help to transform the area.

"I'm really pleased with the plans," she said. "It looks like an attractive development which will improve the area and help tidy it up."

Borders

"The land is being used at the moment and borders the green common land. I'm happy with the scheme and think it will be really good for Pensnett."

The development would have 335 homes with a mixture of two and three-storey townhouses and flats. Around five acres of public open space will be provided across the two sites as part of the proposals.

Outline planning permission was granted for the scheme two years ago after plans were submitted by landowners London & Cambridge Properties (LCP). A report prepared by LCP on the scheme, says it is an exciting opportunity for regeneration.

Part with a pound plea

A WORCESTERSHIRE hospice wants people to join in Part with a Pound Day.

St Richard's Hospice is asking businesses and communities to join in the event on March 9. St Richard's corporate fundraiser Rachel Jones said, "Dress up, dress down, dress wacky or just simply donate £1 not to dress up. Just £1 on one day could make a huge difference."

Regular gig night at pub



Rock band Lazy J get ready to play The Baseline, Dudley

A DUDLEY pub is building on the success of a local recording studio by launching a regular gig night.

Bosses behind The Basement Studios are setting up a monthly gig called The Baseline at The Court House.

They aim to give new bands somewhere to show off the material they developed at the studios in Turner Street. Organiser Frank Williams

said: "Since the demise of JB's, Dudley has lacked a venue that gives a proper musical experience, engineered sound mixing, full light show and professional organisation."

The first night at the venue in New Street on February 24 will feature Lazy J, supported by Red Line Ratio and Babelfish.

The studio has invested more than £3,000.

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There's hope for the silent sufferers

It's hard to imagine after losing natural teeth things could ever be quite the same again.

Denture wearers for too long have often tolerated a catalogue of unresolved problems from poor stabilisation, where prosthetics move on the gums, to an inability to eat a healthy diet.

Added to the physical challenges are the carefully hidden embarrassing moments and the restrictions of being able to live life impulsively. These issues are further

compounded for some by an emotionally corrosive inability to smile freely.

Denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng), who heads the team at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, says: "For some, losing teeth is life changing and not for the better."

But he is keen to send out a message of hope to the silent sufferers with four major treatment models now available at his clinic aimed at reversing "an untold catalogue of misfortunes" and restoring a warm and engaging smile.

Added to the comprehensive clinical toolbox of solutions – which includes traditional dentures; a cleverly designed suction denture which is held in place by tiny diaphragms creating a vacuum between the gums and teeth; and implant retained dentures – is a system known as All-on-4.

In this feature we take a snapshot of each procedure and in accessible language explain the clinical options available from Mr Burchell and his team.



The Ultra Suction system is suitable for both upper and lower prosthetics

Suction offers a new solution

A cutting-edge development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered at the Denture Clinic.

The invention has the potential to improve the life quality of patients who have previously experienced long-term problems with ill-fitting dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the dentures.

A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Expectations

Mr Burchell, whose clinic attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what can only describe as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product."

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The beauty of this technology from New Zealand is that it offers excellent denture retainer qualities without surgery."

"We have always endeavoured to be on the cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations," adds Mr Burchell.

Transformations



ALL-ON-4

A treatment pioneered in Portugal that offers denture wearers teeth that never have to be taken out for cleaning is arriving at the clinic in the New Year. Known as All-on-4, the system embraces implant technology with just four securing posts supporting a titanium framework of teeth.



Denture Clinic consultations also at Parkside Dental Practice, 7 Park Rd West, Wolverhampton, WV1 4PS

And coming soon, the clever teeth you don't have to take out to clean ...

REMOVABLE DENTURES

ARE they real, or are they false? With cutting-edge technology it's hard to know the difference between natural teeth and clever dentures.

Clinic principal Steve Burchell, whose work has attracted interest from as far as away as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Eastbourne and North Wales, is driving hard a message of hope, which is helping to change the image of false teeth and the people who wear them.

Mr Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), says: "It's my experience that there are too many people putting up with ill-fitting dentures. With lips that are pinched, lower dentures with excessive mobility allowing food ingress between the plate and the gums, sore spots and teeth that do not function well, it's no wonder so many wearers feel at a loss in their search for solutions to their problems.

But the clinician, who has earned a country-wide reputation as a smile mechanic, is buoyant about the future for solutions with dentures.

He passionately embraces what he calls "the denture revolution" offering traditional denture wearers precise fittings with the latest injection moulding techniques and natural-looking teeth that are functional too.

"We desperately want people to know there is a solution for most problems. The clinic has a vast wealth of experience to draw upon and we promise to give as much time as people need to resolve issues with the best clinical outcomes," Mr Burchell adds.

IMPLANT RETAINED

A GROWING number of satisfied patients have found a renewed confidence by ditching their traditional dentures for implant retained dentures.

The procedure that became an established form of dentistry in the United States in recent years can now be carried out with the Denture Clinic – and the transition can mean new teeth, which can function just as if they were your own.

Fixed with small titanium screw-like mechanisms that are set, and eventually fused into the bone, they act an effective substitute for the roots of your missing teeth.

Implantologist, Mr Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the clinic has a long-established working relationship, undertakes all the surgical procedures.

Research reveals that as little as two dental implants in the lower jaw will significantly stabilise the prosthetic. A similar procedure can secure the upper teeth, normally with four implant fixings.

The dentures can be snapped on and off their fixings by the patient and provide a guaranteed solution for stabilisation problems.

Advantages include a harmonious fit with gums, the possibility of improved speech and taste, natural chewing function and bite, no more tilting and the end of pressure spot discomfort, restored chewing ability, improved diet, the end of further jaw bone erosion and the smile of your dreams.





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Folk laws surround the robin

SEDGLEY
MORNING TWG

THE ladies agreed that the talk by David Tideswell on "Robin Redbreast" was very interesting and we soon realised that David is very passionate about his favourite bird.

We were informed of the folk law surrounding the robin as well as the history and its use in advertising such as Robin starch, cigarettes, and wool.

In addition, we were told of the correct nesting boxes and positions in the garden to put them, as well as the correct food, including good quality seed and mealworms.

The morning continued with a bring and buy sale followed by a beetle drive which caused much amusement.

Some members are going to see Sister Act at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, this month and there will be other visits arranged in the future.

Everyone agreed that they enjoyed the Christmas lunch at the Himley Hotel on December 15 and the shopping visit to Webbs of Wychbold garden centre near Worcester.

The Floral Arts group theme for January was members' own interpretation of winter.

Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild meets on the first Thursday of the month at All Saints Church Hall, Vicar Street, Sedgley, from 10am to noon.

New recruits are always welcome



Left, last year's Highgate Probus chairman, Cynthia Haynes, this year's chairman, Isabel Mason, and the vice-chair, Sue Booker

HIGHGATE PROBUS

Church, Gillity Avenue, Walsall, at 10.15am. The talk at the February 13 meeting is The Englishman's Castle is his Home.

Highgate Ladies Probus Club is open to retired or semi-retired ladies and new members are always welcome.

US-style launch for 2012

AN EXCELLENT start to the New Year was an American style buffet and entertainment, all provided by members.

Recent talks and slide shows have included Bryan Ralph and his wife Janet to promote the wonderful work of the RNLI in the current century. A film was shown depicting the rigorous train-

**WEDNESBURY
TWG**

ing need to reach their very high standards. As usual, guild members responded to the appeal with enthusiasm.

A donation of £100 was gratefully received by Acorns Children's Hospice in

memory of Mrs Valerie Hancox, a much loved member of the guild, who devoted a great deal of her time to this worthwhile cause.

Guild meetings are held at 7.15pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Baptist Church, Vicar Street, Wednesbury.

New members always receive a warm welcome.

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Sun 11.00am-4.30pm



Camera club shots are put on display

A selection of photographs taken by members of Dudley Camera Club has gone on display. The shots form the annual exhibition at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. Around 180 photographs adorn the walls of the art gallery while a further 126 are projected onto a large screen as part of the display. The exhibition will run until March 3. Members will be on hand to talk about the club and demonstrate the computer programme Photoshop. For more information, call the club secretary on 0121 550 3240.

Blooming mystery



Geoff and Stella Weale from Nursery Grove, Kidderminster, with their plant

ROMANTIC pensioner Geoff Weale is despairing after the exotic plant he gave his wife, Stella, on their 10th wedding anniversary flowered just once in 21 years.

Now he hopes to tap into the knowledge of a top gardening guru to see if he will be able to rekindle the passion of the Bird of Paradise plant by coaxing it to flower.

It should produce a fabulous show of orange and purple blooms – but the only time it has flowered was 11 years ago, when it produced just one bloom. "I wanted a plant as beautiful as my wife so I chose this," said Geoff, aged 65, a retired Brinton's carpet sales representative, of Nursery Grove, Franche, near Kidderminster. "We'd seen them in Madeira, where they grow like weeds. I do what I'm told is best for these plants."

Geoff will this Friday ask BBC gardening expert Reg Moulé for tips during a 'Gardeners' Question Time' at St Mary's Church Chantry, Kidderminster at 7.30pm.

Have a say on regeneration

A QUESTION Time-style event will be held to give Wyre Forest residents the chance to have their say on the economic regeneration of the district.

Wyre Forest District Council will hold the session at Kidderminster Town Hall at 6.30pm on March 7.

It will be open to businesses and the public, who will get the chance to quiz a panel of experts.

The idea is to gather the audience views on what they want to see done to support the local economy and the priorities to move the district forward.

Conservative councillor John Campion, leader of the district council, said: "We

are serious about helping the district respond positively to the current economic climate."

"We hope this Question Time-style event will be fully interactive and enable proper debate just like the weekly television equivalent."

"The council can only do so much on its own and we need to hear what people have to say."

"We have been working to support the local economy for the last few years through the ReWyre regeneration initiatives."

Another debate is being planned to be held at the council chamber in Stourport a week later on March 14.

Meetings with the police

RESIDENTS can voice their views and concerns in Halesowen at the Police and Communities Together sessions.

The Hayley Green and Cradley South Pact meeting is at the healthy hub building in Hunting-tree Park on February 15 at 7pm. Belle Vale residents can attend a drop-in surgery between 10am and 11am on February 16 at Halesowen Library in the Cornbow Centre. On February 24, there will be a Halesowen South PACT meeting at Manor Way School, in Brier Mill Road, starting at 7pm.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

HALESOWEN SLIMMERS GO BANANAS TO SOLVE 'NATIONAL OBESITY CRISIS'

Local slimmers are on a mission to help Halesowen and surrounding areas to lose weight after a new survey found that 67 per cent of people in the town think that obesity is 'a national crisis' however, 75 per cent want to slim down themselves.

The launch of Slimming World's Let's Beat Obesity Together in Halesowen comes as the club's National Slimming Survey reveals that our down-to-earth residents in the West Midlands shun healthy lifestyle advice from celebrities and sports stars and instead take their lead from people in their local community, like friends, family and local health professionals.

Launching in all local Slimming World groups week commencing 13th February, the Let's Beat Obesity Together campaign will run for 12 weeks and encourage family, friends and the local community to work together to make the Halesowen a healthier place to live. The clubs are hoping to inspire as many people as

possible to join the weight loss challenge for a slimmer, healthier and happier future.

"It's telling that so many people in Halesowen see obesity as a national crisis," says Lorraine, Slimming World Consultant at Townsend Social Club. "And it's no surprise that so many people want to lose weight. When you're feeling down about your size it can take over every aspect of your life, from your health and happiness to your work and relationships.

"It's something we know all about in Slimming World group as, meeting every week to share our ups and downs, our motivations and our practical tips and ideas for healthy living, we've all become close friends. We help each other through our most difficult times, build our confidence together and celebrate our successes together."

Now, with the average person in

Halesowen wanting to lose 2st 2lbs, Lorraine is hoping to show the local community how, with a powerful package of group support, a healthy low fat eating plan and guided activity programme, it's possible to lose weight without giving up the food you love.

"Losing weight doesn't have to be a joyless experience," says Lorraine. "You don't have to go hungry and you don't have to deprive yourself of your favourite foods either. It's about regular support and making small, realistic changes that you can keep up in the long term. By sharing ideas, inspirations and local knowledge, the slimmers in my group have learned how to make clever choices for a healthier lifestyle. We'd love anyone who'd like to find out more to come join us at our Let's Beat Obesity Together launch party."

For more information visit www.slimmingworld.com or call 0844 897 8000 for your local group!



slimmingworld.com or call 0844 897 8000 for your local group!

During the 'Let's Beat It Together' campaign anyone who joins their local Slimming World group between 13 February and 25 February and buys a 12-week Countdown to take part in the challenge will get free membership worth £10 plus 2 weeks free worth £9.90 – a total saving of £19.90.

LET'S LOSE WEIGHT TOGETHER AT SLIMMING WORLD

MONDAY Halesowen Townsend Social Club, Stourbridge Road, 7.00pm Tel: Lorraine 01384 830370

TUESDAY Halesowen Lutley Community Centre, Brook Willow Road, 10.00am, 6.00pm Tel: Michaela 0121 602 3267

WEDNESDAY Blackheath Central Methodist Church, High Street, 10.00am, 6.00pm Tel: Ann 0121 422 3296

THURSDAY Old Hill Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road, 5.30pm, 7.00pm Tel: Jill 01384 562102

Halesowen St Peter's Church, Hilands Road, 6.00pm, 7.30pm Tel: Elaine 0121 550 6414

CRADLEY Heath Salvation Army, Meredith Street, 9.30am, 6.30pm Tel: Kim 0121 559 1099

CRADLEY Netherend Neighbourhood Centre, Mogul Lane, 5.30pm & 7.00pm Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

FRIDAY
Halesowen Members Club, Hagley Road, 10.00am Tel: Jill 01384 562102

SATURDAY
Cradley Nether End Neighbourhood Centre, Mogul Lane, 9.00am & 10.30am Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

LET'S BEAT OBESITY TOGETHER LAUNCH PARTY
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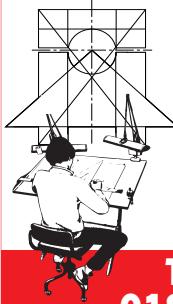


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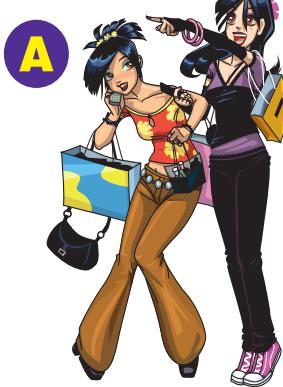
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Express & Star
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thechronicle COMPETITION

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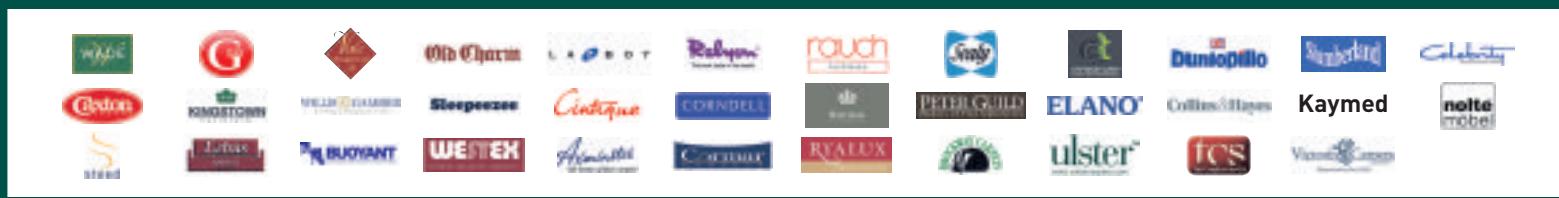
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LUCINDA caring 31yr old single mum, sick of school runs and runny noses, looking for some adult fun and good times with available easygoing male up to 45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383067

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JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382087

FAYE young 43 fun, trendy, fit, loves fast cars, wine, sports, shopping, seeking young male to make me feel as young as the man I am feeling! Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383069

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368119

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368889

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325

MICHELLE blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382089

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60s. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381341

RACHAEL 49 young years slim, caring, sincere and fun loving, WLTM similar male with GSOU for mutual companionship, perhaps more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373011

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370017

SUZANNE lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375711

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curly blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363228

ANNA 29y old nurse, 6ft curly auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375139

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378481

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432

GORGEOUS 26y old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/status welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 358141

ATRACTIVE attractive young blonde with great figure, likes nights in/out, looking for stimulating male for interesting meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380389

40'S LA lady, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 351353

CAROL petite blonde, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377513

BIG beautiful Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOU, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657

LOVING caring young 67y old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOU, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOU, 58-62. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073

SARAH 52, fun loving, affectionate, outgoing, likes pubs, meals out, walks, holidays, seeks kind, romantic, loving man. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382359

SLIM 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381341

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380851

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male, Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380851

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377813

47YR old male, thoughtful, tall, seeks quiet, easygoing lady, 40-47 for mellow relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384401

IAN 43, single dad, likes rugby, motorsports, reading, history, cooking, walks, cinema, music, seeks kind, honest, nice lady, 25-48, for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371955

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377813

40YR old male, likes pubs, bars, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384325

PAUL hurt in past, seeking honest, trustworthy female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374243

CARING affectionate 70's male enjoys home life, socialising, holidays, seeks special lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384653

TONY genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373351

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383425

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368871

JEFF 63, tall, fresh looking, fit, N/S, nice personality, seeks female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384583

GENUINE professional male, 50, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382849

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meat out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 239148

WELL built mixed race guy, seeking fun and laughter with attached fun with open-minded female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387613

MALE 30, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389436

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-65, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382997

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOU, seeks lady for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOU, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tipton. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376115

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOU, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, sees sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929

SLIM attractive 44y old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165

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Saturday TV

Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



WINTER WIPEOUT

BBC1, 6.15pm

Amanda Byram has had a lot on her plate in recent weeks. She's been promoting the benefit of outdoor exercise with British Military Fitness, prepping for a thousand-mile Sport Relief race, fronting new Sky show Don't Stop Me Now, and alongside Richard Hammond, is one of the regular presenting team on this series. So, the obvious question is: has she ever had a go at the course herself? 'Ern no, because I'm so competitive I'm afraid I'll be rubbish!' she laughs. In this edition, a magician and a trio dubbed 'the Don Squad' tackle the winter-themed obstacle course.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.35** Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** British Olympic Dreams. **1.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **6.15 Winter Wipeout.** A magician and a trio dubbed 'the Don Squad' tackle the winter-themed obstacle course. **7.15 The Magicians.** Ed Byrne, Joe Swash and George Sampson join the illusionists for a final set of magic-themed challenges. With a guest performance by Dutch magician Hans Klok. Last in the series. **8.30 The National Lottery:** Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **9.20 Casualty.** Sam refuses to talk to Keith Parry about his neck injury, and instead focuses on treating a patient she believes was sexually assaulted. **10.10 BBC News:** Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Manchester United v Liverpool; National Lottery Update. **11.55 The Football League Show.** **1.10 Weatherview.** **1.15 BBC News.**

6.00 CBeebies. **7.10** CBBC. **12.00** Film: The War Lover. (1962) Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen. **1.40** Film: Two Rode Together. (1961) Western, starring James Stewart. **3.30 Birds Britannia:** Garden Birds. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **6.00 Flog It!** From Kilmarnock. (R) **7.00 Dad's Army.** An invasion alert throws Mainwaring's hopeless would-be heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R) **7.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** France v Ireland (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents coverage of tonight's fixture at the Stade de France in Paris, where the sides play their second match of the campaign. **10.10 Pan Am.** Colette flirts with a mysterious stranger. **10.40 Pan Am.** Ginny follows Dean to Rome. **11.20 TOTP2: The 60s.** Performances by Lulu, the Kinks and Don Partridge. Last in the series. **11.55 FILM: The Assassination of Richard Nixon.** (2004) A man worn down with troubles blames Richard Nixon for all his problems and plots an attempt on the president's life. Fact-based thriller, starring Sean Penn. **1.20 Film:** The Delta Factor. (1970) Spy thriller, starring Christopher George. **2.55 Close.** **1.10 Weatherview.** **1.15 BBC News.**

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.25** This Morning: Saturday. **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.40** Film: Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.15** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **5.30** Regional News; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00 All Star Family Fortunes.** New series. The game show hosted by Vernon Kay returns. Loose Women's Carol Vorderman and astrologer Russell Grant team up with their relatives to win a cash prize for charity. **7.00 New You've Been Framed!** Featuring bridesmaids behaving badly. **7.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp.** Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. **8.00 Take Me Out.** A farmer, a management consultant, a young Conservative and an architecture student try to impress 30 single women. **9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Denzel Washington, Keira Knightley, Tom Hardy and Diorne Warwick. **10.15 FILM: The Edge of Reason.** (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renée Zellweger. **10.30 FILM: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason.** (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renée Zellweger. **12.30 The Zone;** ITV News Headlines. **3.00 In Plain Sight.** **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everyone's Talking About — Top Ten. **9.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **9.55** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.25** T4: Playing It Straight. **11.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Channel 4 Presents — 2012: David Clarke — Part Two. (R) **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Lisa Merrill hosts the final dinner party in Warwickshire. (R) **6.40 Channel 4 News.** **7.10** 4thought.tv. A homosexual rabbi gives his views on same-sex marriage ceremonies. **7.15 FILM: Crocodile Dundee II.** (1988) The Australian adventurer lures the drug dealers who kidnapped his girlfriend to the Outback for a showdown. Comedy adventure sequel, with Paul Hogan. **9.20 The Million Pound Drop Live.** Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall. Last in the series. **10.55 FILM: AVP: Alien vs Predator.** (2004) Thriller, with Sanaa Lathan. **12.40** Film: Get Rich or Die Tryin'. (2005) Drama, starring Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson. **2.40** Atlantic. (R) **2.45** Stagnate. (R) **2.50** Shapes. (R) **2.55** 90210. (R) **3.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.25** Time Team. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Winter Road Rescue. (R) **11.30** Royal Navy: Caribbean Patrol. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **3.30** Film: The Return of the Musketeers. (1989) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Oliver Reed and Michael York. **5.30** Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes.

7.15 5 News Weekend. **7.20 NCIS.** As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery — a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R) **8.15 NCIS.** McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured and held hostage by the inmates, who are afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. (R) **9.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A woman is shot in her home, and the team suspects the involvement of her husband. (R) **10.10 CSI: NY.** A woman's body is found in a Ferrari. **11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Stabler discovers a relative's link to a robbery. **12.05 SuperCasino.** **4.05** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Trade to Cities. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 **3.20** American Idol 5.10 Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995) **7.10** Film: About a Boy (2002) **9.15** Take Me Out — The Gossip 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.45 Film: King Kong (2005)

ITV3 **3.00** Film: Columbo: Caution — Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health (1991) **4.55** A Touch of Frost 7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.05 Film: Memphis Belle (1990)

ITV4 **2.45** Film: Dr No (1962) **5.00** Film: Brewster's Millions (1985) **7.00** Film: Weekend at Bernie's (1989) **9.00** Film: Blazing Saddles (1974) **10.55** Film: Police Academy (1984)

BBC THREE **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.20** Doctor Who 8.10 Top Gear 9.10 Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2011 **10.10** Film: I Love You, Man (2008) **11.50** Family Guy

BBC FOUR **7.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** The Himalayas 9.00 Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.25** Film: San Francisco's Year Zero: We Were Here (2011)

E4 **1.55** Hollyoaks **4.25** Perfect Couples **5.20** Scrubs **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **7.20** Happy Endings **7.50** How I Met Your Mother **8.20** Rules of Engagement **8.50** The Big Bang Theory **9.20** Film: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4 **2.50** The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995) **4.40** Cocoon: The Return (1988) **6.55** The Three Musketeers (1993) **9.00** Star Trek (2009) The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads to a battle with a vengeful Romulan captain from the future. Sci-fi adventure, starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. **11.25** The Disappeared (2008) Horror, starring Harry Treadaway.

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Choice



DANCING ON ICE

ITV1, 6.30pm

A fortnight ago, the Dancing on Ice celebrities took to the rink for a series of skating "duels", with the winners gaining immunity from the public vote. But this week, the contestants are more likely to be sending each other admiring glances and air kisses than pretending to be challenging each other to a fight on the ice. That's because it's a Valentine's themed-episode, and love is definitely air. However, the remaining couples shouldn't let the romantic atmosphere dull their competitive edge, because judges Louise Spence, Robin Cousins and Katarina Witt will still be scoring their efforts, and the public will still be voting to save their favourites.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 10.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 Sunday Politics. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. 2.00 The Royal Bodyguard. (R) 2.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 Antiques Roadshow. (R)

6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. On the Isle of Wight, Matt Baker hears the story of a horse used in the First World War and Ellie Harrison tries winter surfing.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Jenny nurses a man with cancer, and Fred comes up with a money-making venture involving a pig called Evie, only for his plans to be scuppered when it turns out the sow is pregnant.

9.00 The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the Bafta ceremony from the Royal Opera House in London, as stars of the silver screen gather to celebrate the past 12 months' cinematic achievements.

11.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

11.25 Room 101 – Extra Storage. With Ross Noble, Jamelia and Germaine Greer.

12.05 The Sky at Night. 12.25 Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone: Film 2012, with Claudia Winkleman. (R) 1.10 Holby City. (R) 2.10 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.10 BBC News.

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 Film: East of Sudan. (1964) Period adventure, starring Anthony Quayle. 1.00 EastEnders. 3.00 Film: Summer Magic. (1963) Disney musical comedy, starring Hayley Mills. 4.45 Flog It! (R) 5.15 Ski Sunday.

6.00 The Last Explorers. Neil Oliver visits Japan to explore how trader Thomas Blake Glover helped rebel clans lay the foundations for one of the most world's most powerful economies. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Queens of British Pop. Concluding the celebration of 12 female singers of the past 50 years, focusing on Annie Lennox, Alison Moyet, Kylie Minogue, Geri Halliwell, Amy Winehouse and Leona Lewis. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. James May tests the updated Fiat Panda.

9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Train Driver. Simon Davies works with Peruvian train drivers in the Andes. Last in the series.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Aston Villa v Manchester City.

11.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. From Norwich, with Chris Addison and Kathy Brand. (R)

11.30 Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights.

12.15 Ski Sunday. (R) 1.00 Film: Under the Mud. (2006) Comedy, starring Andrew Schofield. 2.25 BBC News. 3.10 Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITY. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 Dinner Date. (R) 11.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder; She Wrote. (R) 1.40 Film: Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.30 Regional News; Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather.

6.00 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)

6.30 Dancing on Ice. The 10 remaining celebrities take part in a love-themed show ahead of Valentine's Day, battling to impress the judges and win public votes.

8.30 Wild at Heart. Du Plessis sets out to prove Danny's innocence, whatever the cost, while Rosie goes on a lone search for a wild cheetah, leading her into a dangerous situation.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Show. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.

10.00 That Sunday Night Show. With guests including Al Murray and Ross Noble.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Whitechapel. A second mass murder occurs with no obvious signs of a break-in. (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.35 The Zone. Interactive gaming; ITV News Headlines. 2.10 Latto to Lady. Australia. The winner is announced. Last in the series. 2.55 ITV Nightshift. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 That Paralympic Show. (R) 7.25 Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered – 2012: Ellie Simmonds – Part Two. How the Paralympic swimming gold medalist copes with pressure. (R) 8.00 T4: One Tree Hill. (R) 8.50 T4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) 9.05 T4: Hollyoaks. (R) 11.40 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.15 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.50 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.25 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 UK Indoor Athletics Trials & Championships. Live coverage from the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. 3.35 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) 4.25 Time Team. 5.25 Deal or No Deal.

6.25 Channel 4 News. 6.55 The Political Slot. 7.00 Home of the Future. New series. A family home is installed with the latest technology and gadgets.

8.00 The Hotel. Manager Mark decides to rejuvenate his restaurant, the Inn.

9.00 The Wedding Proposal. Four people plan to pop the question in memorable ways.

10.00 FILM: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler.

12.25 4thought.tv. 12.30 Film: Amelia. (2009) Premiere. Blopic, starring Hilary Swank. 2.25 Film: Brick. (2005) Mystery drama, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt. 4.15 Mesh: The Wring Turn. (R) 4.20 Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) 4.25 Mesh: Daddy. (R) 4.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.10 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Hannah Crockett – Part Two. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.35 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.50 Castle Farm. (R) 6.55 Igam Ogam. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Family! (R) 7.35 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Olivia. (R) 8.20 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R)

8.35 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.50 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 10.00 Grey's Anatomy. (R) 10.55 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.55 Film: Pete's Dragon. (1977) 2.00 Film: Muppets from Space. (1999) Family puppet comedy, with F Murray Abraham. 3.45 Film: That Darn Cat. (1997) Disney comedy remake, starring Christina Ricci. 5.30 Film: X2. (2003) Superhero adventure sequel, with Hugh Jackman.

8.00 True Grit: The True Story.

8.50 5 News Weekend. 9.00 FILM: Ghost Rider. (2007) Fantasy thriller, based on the comic-book starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.

11.10 FILM: Best of the Best. (1989) Martial arts drama, starring Eric Roberts.

10.05 Inside Hollywood. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) 4.10 How Not to Decorate. (R) 4.50 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) 5.00 Han's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2

3.50 Harry Hill's TV Burp. 4.15 The Only Way Is Essex. 5.50 Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997). 7.40 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (2000) 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex. 10.45 Film: The Island (2005)

ITV3

3.45 Film: The Secret of My Success (1987). 6.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot. 9.00 Lewis 11.00 Cracker.

ITV4

3.05 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952). 4.50 Film: The Man from the Alamo. (1953). 6.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). 9.30 Premiership Rugby Union 10.30 Film: This Is Spinal Tap (1984)

BBC THREE

7.00 Great TV Mistakes. 7.30 The British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet. 8.00 Young Gardener of the Year. 9.00 Being Human. 10.00 Family Guy. 10.45 American Dad! 11.25 Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents

BBC FOUR

7.00 Treasures of Heaven. 8.00 Shooting the Hollywood Stars. 9.00 The Well Take Manhattan. 10.30 Film: Treeless Mountain. (2008) 11.55 How the Brits Rocked America: Go West

E4

4.35 Samantha Who? 5.05 Being Erica. 6.00 90210. 6.55 Film: Monster-in-Law (2005) 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 Skins

FILM4

3.00 Bugsy Malone (1976). 4.50 Planet of the Apes (1968). 7.00 The Bad News Bears (1976) A former baseball player coaches a bunch of hopeless kids and turns them into winners, aided by an ex-girlfriend's talented daughter. Comedy, with Walter Matthau. 9.00 What Lies Beneath (2000) A doctor's wife is troubled by visions of a ghostly girl who appears to be asking her for help. Supernatural thriller, starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Harrison Ford and Diana Scarwid. 11.30 Hot Rod (2007)

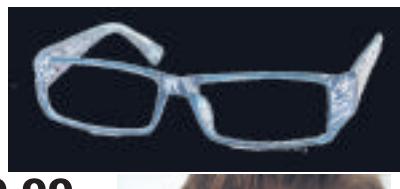
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Five-bed property



This large detached in Pattingham is on the market for offers around £430,000. Contact Dixons on 01902 744252

A DETACHED family home in Pattingham with five bedrooms is on the market priced at £430,000.

The accommodation at Cinder Cottage, in Hall End Lane, briefly comprises lounge, kitchen, utility room, dressing area, five bedrooms, three en suites, family bathroom as well as an integral garage and also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating where specified.

The lounge is 18ft 3in by 9ft 7in and has

a feature fireplace with marble effect back and hearth and inset gas fire, with French doors to the kitchen which is 16ft 1in by 11ft 6in with French doors to the rear and fitted with a range of wall and base units with work tops, one and a half bowl sink, hob with extractor over and built-in oven, integrated dishwasher and fridge/freezer.

Dressing area

There is a utility room with base units with sink unit and a cloakroom with low level wc and pedestal wash hand basin.

Bedroom three has a dressing area and en suite with corner shower cubicle,

bedroom four a Jack & Jill style en-suite with shower cubicle and low level wc, with bedroom five and a family bathroom with panel bath, low level wc and fitted cupboards with double vanity unit.

Bedroom one is 21ft by 10ft 4in, with an en-suite bathroom comprising corner shower cubicle, corner bath and low-level WC. Outside is a block paved driveway to the garage with up and over door, while the rear garden has a paved patio with steps leading to the lawned area.

Contact Dixons Perton branch on 01902 744252.



The house which has seen many improvements is in Lavender Lane, Norton, Stourbridge

Much improved house

A MUCH-IMPROVED and enlarged three bedroom detached family home in Lavender Lane, Norton, Stourbridge, is for sale with a guide price of £199,950.

and the sitting area 14ft 6in by 12ft 10in with a feature brick built fireplace.

A door from the dining area opens to a central hall with a door to the guest cloakroom with low level wc and wall mounted wash hand basin.

The kitchen - 15ft 8in by 10ft 10in - has a range of contemporary styled cupboard fronted units, rolled edge work surface with one-and-a-half bowl sink and drainer unit, wall mounted units, five burner AEG gas hob with matching electric double oven and stainless steel cooker hood and peninsular

breakfast bar. The study/home office/hobbies room is 13ft 1in by 8ft 2in.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with modern white suite including a 'shower bath' with shower over, curved shower screen, low level wc and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property is set back behind a block paved driveway, while the generous rear gardens have a large lawn area and borders with maturing plants and shrubs.

For further details, or to arrange a viewing, call estate agent Taylors on 01384 395555.

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The Vicarage
15 St Marks Road
* Large detached family home
* 5 bedrooms
* upvc double glazing to most windows
* 3 reception rooms
* gas boiler/radiator heating system
* garage

Monthly rent of £625

84 Lawrence Lane
* Good sized family home
* 3 bedrooms (1 with en suite shower room)
* upvc double glazing to most windows
* 2 living rooms
* gas boiler/radiator heating
* house bathroom

Monthly rent of £595

HALESOWEN Spies Lane * Semi detached house * extended to side and rear * kitchen/breakfast room * five bedrooms * day room Offers in the region of £275,000	OLDBURY Wolverhampton Road * Extended family house * Master bedroom with ensuite * Three further bedrooms * Good sized rear garden * Through lounge * No upward chain Offers in the region of £245,950	OLDBURY Oak Road * Much improved throughout * Master bedroom with ensuite * Two further bedrooms * Breakfast kitchen * Utility * Good sized garden * No upward chain Offers in the region of £219,950	HALESOWEN Ombersley Road * Extended semi detached * Spacious flexible accommodation * 3 first floor bedrooms * Ground floor bed 4 potential * Open plan living room * Ground floor shower room Offers in the region of £199,950	STOURBRIDGE Wollescote Springfield Avenue Longmoor * Modern semi-detached house * 2 bedrooms (1 with fitted wardrobes) * Fitted kitchen with oven, hob, hood & fridge * Modern bathroom suite with shower * Sliding door from living room to patio * Garden with shed * GCH & DG windows Monthly rent of £525	STOURBRIDGE Wollescote 4D Wassell Road * Modern 1st floor apartment * Two bedrooms * Open plan lounge & stylish fitted kitchen * Kitchen with hob, oven & extract hood * Gas central heating & DG windows * Off road parking * Available now! Monthly rent of £435	HALESOWEN 160B Coombs Road * Self contained flat * one bedroom * upvc double glazed windows * electric heating * rent inclusive of water charges Monthly rent of £395
OLDBURY Forest Road * Spacious traditional semi * Four bedrooms * Two reception rooms * Kitchen/breakfast room * Pleasant gardens * Viewing recommended Offers in the region of £199,950	CRADLEY HEATH Kererwin Close * Link detached house * Corner position * 3 bedrooms (master ensuite) * Conservatory * Refitted breakfast kitchen * Planning permission for extension Offers in the region of £189,950	BIRMINGHAM Quinton Overdale Road * End of terrace house * Three bedrooms * Living room * Conservatory * Refitted kitchen * Loft room Offers in the region of £127,500	OLDBURY St James Road * Semi detached bungalow * Two bedrooms * Lounge * Kitchen * Bathroom * Off road parking * General improvement required * Great potential Offers in the region of £90,000	CRADLEY HEATH HADEN HILL AREA 441 Halesowen Road Flat 9 Chartwell Grange * First floor one bedroom flat * Living room * Bedroom * Upvc DG windows * Night storage heating * Convenient location * Attractive communal grounds & car-parking Monthly rent of £385	CRADLEY HEATH 35 Spinners End Drive * Self contained 1st floor flat * One bedroom with wardrobe * Kitchen with oven, hob, hood & fridge * Lounge with electric fire * Night storage heating * Convenient location * Attractive communal grounds & car-parking Monthly rent of £375	DUDLEY Tipton 11 Old Port Close * Ground floor flat * Unfurnished * One Bedroom * Allocated parking * Electric heaters/DG windows * View now! Monthly rent of £375

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Set in a very quiet cul-de-sac is this modern unfurnished detached home, briefly comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking, Front Rear Gardens

£775 PCM**ROWLEY REGIS, WOOLPACK CLOSE**

An unfurnished detached family home comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking and Garage.

£650 PCM**MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE**

An unfurnished modern three storey house within walking distance to Merry Hill, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs wc, Three Bedrooms, Master En Suite Lounge and Dining Room/Study, Allocated Parking Space

£595 PCM**BLACKHEATH, HOLT ROAD**

An immaculately presented mid-terrace home, close to local schools, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, Unfurnished

£550 PCM**HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE**

Located just off Graham Road, is this very large, fully refurbished ground floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished

£550 PCM**HALESOWEN, HOPE STREET**

A superbly presented first floor apartment. Situated in a Cul-de-sac location and been fully refurbished, briefly comprises of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fantastic Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lovely Modern Bathroom With Shower, On Road Parking space. Viewing Recommended.

£525 PCM**HALESOWEN, PARK ROAD**

This modern mid-terrace house, on a bus route to Halesowen and Stourbridge, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Lounge, House Bathroom, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished

£525 PCM**NETHERTON, WELLFIELD GARDENS**

A well presented two bedroom semi-detached family home situated in a quiet cul-de-sac position. Lounge, kitchen/dining room and re-fitted bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Parking at side of house for several cars. Secluded rear garden. Viewing highly recommended.

£525 PCM**HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS**

An exceptional opportunity to rent this room in a shared house, with no bills to pay at all, cleaning done for you, towels and tea and coffee supplied for each room. Also the use of free WiFi, use of the lounge, kitchen, office room. All rooms have their own en-suite facilities. Well worth a viewing, and ideal for a single person.

£500 PCM**CRADLEY HEATH, SIDAWAY STREET**

A superb refurbished mid-terrace property within walking distance to Old Hill town centre, with an internal inspection recommended, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Walk in Dressing Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Galey Kitchen with Appliances and Utility Area, Bathroom with Shower Cubicle but NO Bath, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, On Road Parking, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£495 PCM**NETHERTON, PAINT CUP ROW**

A refurbished two bedroom detached set in a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Downstairs Bathroom, Gas Central Heating and Enclosed Garden. Viewing Essential

£495 PCM**OLDBURY, KELLNER GARDENS**

A wonderful unfurnished second floor apartment in a quiet spot, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room Through to Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, House Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space, Unfurnished

£495 PCM**CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE**

This lovely unfurnished modern first floor apartment, located in a popular area, and close to local train stations and buses, comprises of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms with Shower, Parking Space

£495 PCM**HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD**

A lovely unfurnished 2 bed mid-terrace home briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Family Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms with Free Standing Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, On Road Parking.

£475 PCM**DUDLEY, PRIORY ROAD**

A fantastic value for money two bedroom flat above a shop. Briefly comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Two Large Bedrooms, Newly Fitted Kitchens throughout, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Close to Dudley College and Town Centre. Viewing Essential. Available Immediately.

£450 PCM**CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE**

A well presented ground floor flat, on this popular development, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes and Patio Doors onto Balcony, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Allocated Parking Space, Unfurnished

£435 PCM**ROWLEY REGIS, HIGH STREET**

A furnished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking. Unfurnished

£425 PCM**CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD**

This house, in Hereford Way, has accommodation briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking, NO REAR GARDEN

£400 PCM**ROWLEY REGIS, THE LINK, PORTWAY ROAD**

An unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to motorway access, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Open Plan Living Room/Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£395 PCM**DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD**

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

£380 PCM**HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE**

On this popular development, is this unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

£380 PCM**Home of Property****Halesowen**

Oak Cottage, in Great Haywood, has a cosy lounge (top right), quaint kitchen (bottom right) and a spacious rear garden (above). The property is on the market with Your Move Neil John for an asking price of £194,950. Call 01785 257100 or visit the dedicated website for further information at www.your-move.co.uk

Cottage with charm is rare sight on market

RARELY does a property with such charm and character appear on the market.

Oak Cottage is situated on Main Road, Great Haywood, near Stafford.

This double fronted cottage offers buyers the ideal family home for an asking price of £194,950.

From the moment you walk in you are greeted with oak flooring and exposed beams.

The open fire is more than enough to ward off those cold winter nights and a spacious welcoming dining kitchen finishes off the ground floor.

On the first floor, three double bedrooms await on the first floor, with an en suite to the master and family bathroom.

To the rear is a pleasant lawned garden with a variety of bushes and

shrubs. All this property could be yours for this inviting price.

The dining room features beams to ceiling, exposed wooden flooring, feature fireplace and stairs to first floor landing, plus door to the lounge.

The lounge includes beams to ceiling, open fire, exposed wooden flooring, bay window to dining room and window to kitchen.

Appliances

Fitted base units with roll-top work-surface over, built-in electric hob and oven, stainless steel sink drainer unit, plumbing for automatic washing machine and space for further appliances all appear in the kitchen.

In addition there is wall-mounted boiler, exposed wooden flooring, single radiator, feature beams to ceiling.

From the landing there is access to

the loft and doors to the three bedrooms, all of which are doubles. The master has fitted wardrobes and an en suite comprising close coupled WC, pedestal wash basin, tiled walk in power shower, heated towel rail, exposed wooden flooring and part tiled surround.

A separate bathroom has WC, pedestal wash basin and panelled bath with wall-mounted shower over, part tiled surround, exposed wooden flooring and window to rear.

The rear garden has paved patio area, steps leading to lawned garden with a variety of bushes and shrubs, space for shed, enclosed by panelled fencing.

Call estate agent Your Move Neil John on 01785 257100 for further details.

Estate agent Southwells of Rugeley is handling the sale of this modern four-bedroom property



The lounge is 11ft 8in by 16ft 3in with double doors into the dining room - 10ft 3in by 9ft 8in

A four-bedroom executive detached property in Rugeley has been reduced in price to £215,000.

The house, in Hereford Way, has accommodation briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Close to Dudley College and Town Centre. Viewing Essential. Available Immediately.

There is a roll top work surfaces over,

stainless steel sink and drainer, plumbing for automatic washing machine,

dishwasher, integrated fridge, fitted

electric oven and gas hob, with an

access door into the garage.

The lounge is 11ft 8in by 16ft 3in

8in by 15ft with a range of fitted

wardrobes, while the en-suite has a shower cubicle with power shower, low level WC and wash hand basin.

There are three more bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising panel bath, low level WC and wash hand basin.

Outside is a lawned front garden with driveway leading to the integral garage, while the rear garden is mainly lawned with patio and raised decking area. Call Southwells on 01889 582 137 for more details.



One of the four bedrooms at the executive home



In the rear garden there is a raised decked area

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Crendon Road, Rowley Regis



£159,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom extended semi detached property comprising porch, hallway, extended lounge, conservatory, kitchen, dining room, utility, bathroom, double glazing and central heating. Driveway and landscaped rear garden.

Fatherless Barn Crescent, Halesowen



Three bedroom semi detached property. Hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen, wc, first floor shower room, driveway and rear garden. Central heating and double glazing.

£99,995

NEW

Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £140,000



Three bedroom traditional semi detached property with porch, entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen and first floor bathroom. Front and rear gardens, driveway and no upward chain.

NEW PRICE

Arkle Croft, Rowley Regis



£200,000

Modern detached home. Hallway, guest wc, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms, en-suite and bathroom.

Belbroughton Road, Halesowen



£145,000

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden.

Clyt Hill Drive, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £160,000

Extended four bedroom semi detached property. Two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, bathroom, shower room and driveway.

Harrold Road, Rowley Regis



Three bedroom mid terraced house offering lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, parking and rear garden. Double glazing and part central heating. No upward chain.

Offers Over £90,000

Bourne Walk, Rowley Regis



£110,000



Three bedroom terraced property comprising hallway, wc, lounge/diner, kitchen, first floor bathroom, front garden, driveway and parking to rear. Double glazing and central heating.

Bassnage Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

Three bedroom extended semi detached property. Lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, loft room, driveway and rear garden.

The Beeches, Halesowen



£125,000

A two bedroom end terrace property comprising kitchen, lounge, bathroom, driveway and rear garden. No upward chain.



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Trust plays a big role in choosing good garages

BOTH money and time may be tight for many motorists but when it comes to choosing a garage to maintain their car, trust beats both price and convenience as the most important factor, according to a new study from Kwik Fit.

Its research shows that almost half of motorists (45 per cent) say their most important reason for returning to the same garage they've used previously is because they trust it will do a good job. This is almost twice as many as those who are most influenced by price (24 per cent), while only one in five base their decision on convenience.

The research shows the extent to which motorists remain loyal to the garage they trust – more than three-quarters (78 per cent) will stay with one garage where possible. One in three are so faithful they wouldn't switch at any price.

It takes up to three successful visits to gain the trust of most drivers (74 per cent). A sceptical three per cent of motorists say it takes seven visits or more to a garage to have fully earned their confidence. One in 10 motorists say they don't generally trust garages.

Just one in 12 (eight per cent) drivers will try a new garage for a service or MoT, but when it comes to tyres, motorists are more willing to put loyalty to one side – a quarter say they would be prepared to go elsewhere.

Roger Griggs, communications director at Kwik Fit, says: "It's encouraging to see that even in times of financial hardship, motorists are not abandoning their loyalty to a decent garage.

"And it's a credit to the industry that the majority of drivers who keep going to the same place do so because they have faith in its ability to get the job done properly."

Three-quarters of drivers will stay with a garage if possible



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Five selected service centres in the Black Country consisting of Dudley Motor Company, T Wall Garages, Halesowen Motor House, Stourbridge Motor House and Clarks of Kidderminster, have joined forces to offer drivers and businesses in the area affordable service pricing for all makes of vehicle. Obviously in the current climate we are all conscious of the running costs of our vehicles and for most of us they are still essential to our everyday lives, either getting to and from work, visiting hospital, keeping in contact with relatives or indeed running a business.

Stuart Truman, service advisor at Clarks of Kidderminster



It is therefore imperative that your vehicle is kept running and more importantly that the correct oil is used so your engine runs smoothly. The grade of oil used should be a top priority question when booking your car in along with the quality of oil filter used.

The prices start from £44.95 for a small service and they use high grade engine oil and genuine manufacturer oil filters so no nasty engine problems should occur after your visit.

All centres have ramps to facilitate cars through to high sided vans and also have access to a Class 7 MOT test centre.

They also include private local and commercial businesses in their pricing structure. These customers need support too so their trading isn't disrupted and are also offered free courtesy vans so they can carry on business as normal.

As all sites are family run businesses you will find them easy to do business with as well as being friendly and caring. Collection and delivery is also an option they will offer and is free for the local area.

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Mechanic Dave McGarry



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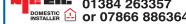


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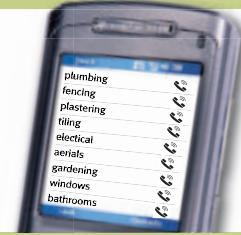
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SPORT

Villa fans urged to join boss protest

VILLA fans are being urged to attend a pre-match protest against manager Alex McLeish before Sunday's home clash with Manchester City.

A statement posted on the Vital Villa fans website criticises the current record of six wins in 24 Premier League games and claims the Villa players are "seeming to be in open revolt" following Sunday's 2-1 defeat at Newcastle.

The statement read: "We have played 24 games this season, we have won six! Is this good enough? No."

"Alex McLeish is not the man to lead Aston Villa. He had a full pre-season, was given £20 million (approximately) to spend and has players of the calibre of Darren Bent, Gabby Agbonlahor and Stephen Ireland to work with (also the most promising batch of home-grown players produced in years).

"Despite all this, we find ourselves 13th in the table and without a home win since Bonfire Night."

"Now after the debacle of Sunday, with the players now seeming to be in open revolt, the future is looking very bleak indeed. We need to act now before it is too late and the unthinkable happens."

"If you support this, please join us at 3pm on Sunday Trinity Road Stand by the McGregor Statue."

Many supporters were unhappy when McLeish made the switch from Birmingham to replace Gerard Houllier but it remains to be seen whether there will be substantial support for the proposed protest on Sunday.

Football games called off again

ALL football matches planned for Sandwell parks and open spaces this weekend have been cancelled.

The council took the decision because of the forecast for snow and icy weather and the risk of frozen pitches.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Derek Rowley said it was the second week running that matches had been cancelled, but it was a necessary step to avoid anyone getting injured.

He added: "Also it is best to give teams as much notice as possible."



Lyndsey Glover and Rory Davies cheer their England selection

Pair picked for country

TEENAGE Black Country footballers are proudly wearing the three lions on their shirts after appearing for England.

Rory Davies, aged 17, from Dudley, and Lyndsey Glover, 18, from Coseley, have both taken their bow on the international stage.

The two have been selected for British Colleges Sport England men's and women's squads.

The pair are both studying BTEC sport at Dudley College.

And they have already played in

their first match this year against Australia.

Although both sides lost, the players are gearing up for their next matches against Wales.

They are the third and fourth footballers from Dudley College to play for England, following the success of Chris Knights and Tyree Clarke.

Lyndsey is pleased to be adding to the three caps she gained last year while Rory, who has been picked for the first time this year, said it was a

dream come true to play for his country. The in-form Davies recently scored in a 4-1 win over Walsall FC Scholars.

He said: "I have been in good form for the college side and the coaches at Dudley really believe in me and have pushed me hard to reach this level. I now want to score for my country."

Dudley College was awarded Focus College status in summer 2010 by the FA and British College Sport.

Welborn prepares for title defence

DUDLEY boxer Jason Welborn will take centre stage as Wolverhampton Civic Hall stages its second professional boxing show in as many months in March.

After Saturday's Prizefighter area champion Jason Welborn will make a first defence of his Midlands welterweight crown against Coventry's James Flinn on March 23.

Welborn unseated Coventry's Sean McKevery in just two rounds for the title at Walsall Town Hall in November and puts his power against Flinn's skill.

The two-time British Masters champion has just one defeat on a 12-fight pro record, an English title defeat against Adil Anwar last time out in November.

Anwar will now be a part of Prizefighter but Flinn is also coming to the Civic, as he looks to get his career back on track at Welborn's expense.

The main event is one of two title fights on the card, as Tipton's Lee Glover and Ian Bailey go for the vacant British Masters super bantamweight belt.

The two have been on a collision course since the back end of last year.

Two six-rounders are also on the bill as former English lightweight champion Martin Gethin and Birmingham's Thomas Costello face international opposition.

Joining them are dynamic Dudley featherweights Dean Anderson and Zak the Ripper - real name Saquib Amir.

Hard-hitting Stafford middleweight Grant Cunningham, Stourbridge's Steven Pearce and Brierley Hill's Karl Spencer make up the rest of the card.

For tickets, call the box office on 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'P' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Simpson back in the saddle

BIRMINGHAM speedway centre green presenter Chris Simpson is returning to the track after nearly eight years for a challenge race.

The ex-Isle of Wight rider faces his Leicester opposite number Chris Popple for charity. Simpson will support Unicef while Popple backs Diabetes UK as part of the My First Skid speedway school at Leicester's Beaumont Park track on Saturday, February 25 (noon).

Donations can be made at info@myfirstskid.com

Snow good as Albion lose again at home

Albion 1 Swansea 2

THE latest in a lengthening collection of Hawthorns giveaways took the misery level to a new low for fans.

Heavy snow arriving just before the game made the journey away from The Hawthorns just as unenjoyable for supporters as watching the match.

For the ninth time in 14 Hawthorns outings - the eighth in 12 in the Premier League - fans fled away with their team beaten, writes Steve Madley.

This time there were fewer crumbs of comfort than ever with the common traits from previous disappointments present.

They created one or two decent chances, might easily have had a penalty, had an effort cleared off the line and saw the misfiring Peter Odemwingie miss the mother of all sitters as they chased an equaliser.

And yet they and their fans left a snowy stadium knowing that, for the first time in a while, their overall performance did not merit anything more than it got.

Rescued

Roy Hodgson's side were flat, uninspired and lacking conviction.

And after a crazy six-minute spell in the second half that saw them seize control of the game and then surrender it, they never possessed the guile to reassert authority.

Odemwingie should have rescued an undeserved draw that might have gone a small way towards clawing back some of the frustrating points that have fallen by the wayside with a hint of injustice in recent months.

But on the day there was little question that the increasingly impressive Swans were excellent value for just their second away-day success of the season.

Hodgson's men looked like a side whose belief in their abilities to dominate at home has drained away. Even players who have performed steadily this term, men like Jonas Olsson, Gareth McAuley and James



Peter Odemwingie argues with former Hednesford Town defender Ashley Williams

Morrison, looked off-colour. And the big figures from last season who have misfired too often in this campaign were off the pace again with Odemwingie and Youssouf Mulumbu the most obvious examples.

The game might have taken a different route had referee Jonathan Moss spotted a clear handball by former Baggies trainee Ashley Williams to stop McAuley's goal-bound header on 18 minutes.

Not until a brief rally late in the first half did Albion gather any steam, Angel Rangel clearing Marc-Antoine Fortune's header off the line.

Fortune worked tirelessly once more and was rewarded with the opening goal on 54 minutes when Olsson redirected Graham Dorrans' corner and the Frenchman took a touch before beating Michel Vorm.

Baggies fans hoped that finally going ahead at home would ease the nerves of

their team. But they barely had time to enjoy it before they were pegged back by Gylfi Sigurdsson, who swept home from six yards after an incisive Swans counter-attack.

Muddled Albion then allowed Sigurdsson time to stride through and cross for Danny Graham to complete the turnaround.

Odemwingie should have spared their blushes but he lifted a shot over and plunged his head into his hands.

Vorm enjoyed a slice of luck in stoppage-time when Fortune's shot hit him and trickled past the post.

But Hodgson's men got what they deserved and the boos that greeted the final whistle were a clear verdict on their work.

A proud away record is keeping them clear of the bottom three. But the majority of their fans see them at The Hawthorns - and they are reaching the end of their tether.



Marc-Antoine Fortune opens the scoring

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SPORT

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Former champ is now president

FORMER British and World middleweight champion Wayne Elcock has been unveiled as the new president of the Midlands Ex-Boxers Association (MEBA).

The organisation generates funds for ex-boxers in time of need.

Elcock, from Birmingham, said: "I am proud to be invited to take on this role and I give active support to MEBA's fundraising initiatives as I want to put something back into my sport."

Assistance is provided for boxers whether amateur or professional.

Membership is £5 for life and money is raised through boxing-themed social evenings and an annual golf day.

Membership is open to all those with a previous or active involvement in the sport.

Members meet on the first Sunday morning of every second month at Somers Social Club, Halesowen.

The next meeting is Sunday, April 1, at 11am.

For membership enquiries or to request assistance, call secretary Jerry Hjelte on 01299 879907 or 07769 715141 or email jeremyhjelte@hotmail.com

Liam misses out on title hopes

TIPTON boxer Liam Gould has been edged out in his bid to win the ABA Schools national title.

Gould, of William Perry ABC, lost narrowly at 48kg in Class Two – boxers born in 1998 – after three close rounds in the pre-quarters at the Manchester Boxing Centre of Excellence.

He was beaten 25-20 by Ashton Albion ABC's Alex Clegg.

The Coseley High School student hung in there despite struggling with the strength and volume of punches of his opponent.

Rivals may go head to head

BLACK COUNTRY fighters Dean Harrison and Young Mutley could meet in Saturday's Prizefighter show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

Harrison, from Wolverhampton, and Mutley, of West Bromwich, are both in the eight-man, one-night, light-welterweight tournament. The draw to decide opponents takes place on the night.

Bustleholme not resigned to leaving

by Craig Birch

to withdraw their resignation and stay in the division. They pay to play at the Sports Academy, Tipton, and attract average gates of around 40, with a 102 attendance their season-best so far, for a home match with Gornal Athletic.

After losing their sponsors for the last two years, Evans Halshaw Ford of Walsall, Bustleholme fell at the first hurdle in both the FA Cup and the FA Vase.

That has led to cash problems which they hope can be solved by a fresh call for sponsorship, after an initial plea last year did not

attract the desired response. Chairman Geoff Benbow said they had to take steps to protect the club as a whole rather than the men's team, which has been in operation since 1990.

He said: "It has given us six months to restructure the club and, hopefully, give us the chance to attract some new sponsorship.

"We will finish the season off; resigning was our way of safeguarding ourselves in case we can't continue next season.

"We are desperately hoping that won't happen, but we can't afford to sacrifice 12 junior teams for the sake of the first team.

"We were initially a boys' club but they

need something to play for, something to progress to, or they have nowhere to go."

Even if the Bustleholme men's team were to fold in the summer, the club could re-apply to join the West Midlands League.

They would have to work their way up from Division Two to return to the Premier League, where they have played since 1996.

But the Bs, who started life as a boys' club in 1975, are pressing on with plans to revive their youth team.

Benbow added: "The idea is to resurrect the youth team to play in the Midlands Floodlit League, as we do have an under-21 side."

A new era as opener takes over at Old Hill

DANNY COX has been charged with leading Old Hill CC into a new era.

The 19-year-old opening batsman will captain the first team for this season's Birmingham League Division One campaign following the departure of skipper Nathan Round.

He, along with Dan Wood and Ashraf Hussain, has opted to join Premier Division outfit Himley.

"It's a challenge I am really looking forward to," said Cox, who played two first class games for Loughborough MCCU last summer and also represented Herefordshire at Minor Counties level.

"It's a new era for the club with new ideas and new personnel. A few players have left and it's important to get everyone pulling together. We are trying to stabilise things and get the club moving in the right direction."

Old Hill will need to fill the void left by the departures of top-order batsman Round, opening bowler Hussain and middle order batsman Wood.

Cox has recruited Oldswinford seamer Seb Soukoup and is looking for the club's younger players to step up the pace.

"We have lost some good players but that presents opportunities for others," said Cox.

"There will be no false promises from me. The only promise is that I will be fair with everyone. If people perform they will get their chance."

"There are some good young players at the club."

Former coach John Rowe has returned to the Haden Hill Park club.

Closing in on a final chance

SCHOOLS have just over three weeks left to qualify for the Black Country School Games Festival.

The event, organised by the Black Country Local Organising Committee, will be held across three venues – the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus, Tipton Sports Academy and Wood Green Academy. It is funded by Sport England. Details: www.blackcountry-schoolsgames.co.uk

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MOLINEUX REVENGE MISSION FOR KEITH

KEITH ANDREWS crosses the Black Country divide on Sunday, admitting: "I was dying to get out of Wolves."

Andrews will be a familiar face in the Baggies squad travelling to Molineux for Sunday's derby. Yet the 31-year-old is adamant, if he makes his debut on his former stamping ground, Wolves fans will not recognise the player he has become. **writes Steve Madeley.**

The Irishman spent 10 years at Molineux after moving from his homeland as a 15-year-old and being heralded as one of the brightest stars of the Wolves academy.

He made just 48 starts for the club, however, and seven years after his departure he offers a frank assessment of the mistakes he made and the reasons he had to leave.

"Whether my lifestyle was wrong, or it was the people I was knocking around with, I don't know. But it was just so easy for me because I had been there for so long," he admits.

Andrews was released by Wolves in 2005.

Having shed the extra pounds he carried at Molineux, Andrews has reinvented himself as a box-to-box midfielder and become a regular Ireland international.

And he traces it all to his days at Milton Keynes.

Ince's move to Blackburn offered Andrews the shot at the Premier League thanks to a £1.3m move to Ewood Park in his manager's wake.

Four years brought 51 Premier League starts, only for a fall-out with the powers-that-be to convince him his time in Lancashire was up. Last Tuesday he forfeited the final 18 months of his contract to sign a six-month Hawthorns deal.

Andrews is confident he can finally make his mark in the Black Country and prove he was better than Wolves fans think.

"I always look in the mirror first when I'm

Ace Whiley takes over as Britain's No.1



Jordanne Whiley in action at Sydney. Picture: Susan Harris/Tennis Australia

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley is the new British No.1 for women's wheelchair tennis.

The 19-year-old competed in four tournaments in Australia and reached only the second International Tennis Federation Super Series semi-final of her career.

Whiley repeated last year's success by again reaching the last four at the Sydney International Open. This year's tournament was upgraded and when the rankings were calculated this week, Whiley overhauled British leader Lucy Shuker.

Whiley, who has brittle bones, is now world No.12 and is heading for the USA to play a series of tournaments in March and April.

"Becoming British No.1 has been among one of my goals for a while," said Whiley. "I've been pretty close to Lucy for a couple of years, so it's nice to have overtaken her for now."

"It's been a fantastic four weeks in Australia. Now it's all about building on these performances as we head towards the end of the qualification period for the London 2012 Paralympics."

Whiley beat three of the world's top 10 in Sydney before losing 6-0, 6-2 to world No.1 Esther Vergeer in the last four – the Dutchwoman is unbeaten in 444 matches since 2003.

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